

Zion Mennonite Church Newsletter

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300 Short Buehrer Road Archbold, OH 43502 ~ Church office hours: Monday– Friday 8:00 am—12:00 pm

Pastor Sue Short 419-346-7827
Pastor Dan Miller 574-238-1883

Project Hope: 419-445-0728
Child's World Preschool: 419-445-6034

Elder Chair Lonnie Short 419-583-9567
Elder Greg Nofziger 419-583-6769
Elder Suz Wirick 419-966-2266
Elder Barb Yoder 567-694-3112
Elder Mike Zimmerman 419-966-7363

July 16, 2023

Zion Activities this week

Sunday, July 16

9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)
10:45 am ~ Sunday School

Monday, July 17

9:30 am ~ Staff Meeting
5:00 pm ~ SLT

Wednesday, July 19

9:00 am ~ Quilting in room 303

Thursday, July 20

6:30 am ~ Men's Prayer
7:00 pm ~ AA (310)

Friday, July 21 ~ *Office closed*

Saturday, July 22

8:00 am ~ Fellowship Hall Reserved

Sunday, July 16

9:30 am ~ Worship (sanctuary & zoom)
10:45 am ~ Sunday School

Office News

~ Summer office hours continue with the office being opened Monday-Thursday from 8-12 and Fridays closed. Friday office hours will resume on Friday, August 25th.

Happy Birthday:

July 16 ~ Phil Rich, Artie Short
July 17 ~ Max Aeschliman
July 19 ~ Elaine Schnitkey
July 21 ~ Ella Richer

Happy Anniversary

July 17 - Micah & Sarah Frankenfield (13)
July 19 - Keith & Jackie Lehman (43)

Order of Service

Prelude ~ Karen Stuckey
Welcome & Announcements ~ Jan Cobb Nofziger
Interlude
Call to Worship & Water Ritual ~ Jan Cobb
Nofziger & Giora Bell Yoder
Prayer ~ Jan Cobb Nofziger
Hymn ~ Anita Roth
"We Sing To You O God" (STJ 1)
Offering/Offertory ~ Jan/Karen
Confession
Hymn ~ Anita Roth
"By The Waters" (HWB 148)
Prayer for Church & World ~ Greg Nofziger
Scripture ~ Exodus 17:1-7
Sermon ~ Dan Miller
Hymn ~ Anita Roth
"Water Has Held Us" (STJ 82)
Baptism ~ Ellie Grieser
Benediction ~ Dan Miller
Sending Hymn ~ Anita Roth
"Rain Down" (STJ 49)



By God's Grace, Zion Mennonite Church will be a House of Peace where all people are invited to share Christ's love with each other and the world.

Collaborative Ministry Team Pastor Update

Sunday July 9th concluded our voting process for John David Thacker. The Search team is pleased to report that John David was affirmed with a 93% vote of confidence. 133 votes were received in total, 124 were "yes" votes and 9 were "no" votes.

John David has formally accepted Zion's call to serve as a full time equivalent on the Collaborative Ministry Team. A covenant for his first term will be worked on in the coming weeks.

The search team and the SLT are currently working on plans for when John David will officially join Zion's Collaborative Ministry Team, as well as when Dan Miller's term with Zion will wrap up. The transition is likely to begin this fall and be completed before the end of the year. As more details are available they will be shared. Thank You everyone for your participation in the search process.

July Worship - *“Come to the Water”*

Many of us enjoy spending time on or near the water in the summer. There's something calming about water which seems to ground us and connect us to God's presence. We know our physical bodies need water to survive, but perhaps our souls do, as well. This summer, we'll look at a few of the themes involving water that are present in scripture. How does water represent God's good creation, God's protection, and God's intention for shalom? What is our relationship to water today? Our scripture focus for July 16th is Exodus 17:1-7. We will also be celebrating the baptism of Ellie Grieser during worship this Sunday.

Thank you

Thank you so much for the get well cards and all the birthday cards I received. I enjoyed reading them all. Thanks for thinking of me. ~ Donabell Nofziger

New Announcements

To Zion Ministry Teams: Stewardship Ministry Team will begin working on Zion's budget next month - August. Stewardship requests budget needs/considerations for next year's budget. 9/1/23-8/31/23, be turned in to Cal Britsch or Dan Ruth by Saturday 8/5/23. If any team needs information or consultation, contact Cal. Thanks, Dan Ruth.

'My Coins Count' Noisy Offering is coming soon! Get your change ready - our noisy offering will be collected on Sunday, July 30th during worship. The water pump for your change will also be in the fellowship hall near the coffee bar each Sunday during July, and in the office each weekday (Mon - Thurs) till noon. Our noisy offering gifts will help support clean water projects around the world through Mennonite Central Committee (MCC).

Central's Summer Concert Series on July 23rd will feature The Tacketts, a southern gospel group. Come rain or shine at 6pm and bring your lawn chair. Food available from Cruising Cuisine food truck. See the bulletin board for more information.

The Reformed Mennonite Church (Lauber Hill) has donated their meeting house to the Fulton County Historical Society. There will be an open house held on Sunday, July 23 from 1 – 4 PM at the meeting house located on the corner of Co. Rd.21 and US Highway 20A. Historical information about the Reformed Mennonite Church will be presented during the open house. All are welcome.

Burgers & Magic: Friday, August 4 -Ruihley Park Archbold. Burger Bash 5:30 – 7 in the pavilion and just after 7 Jim Barron Comedy Magic Show under the bandstand. Bring lawn chairs or blankets. Free-will donations all benefit Growing Hope Globally. See the bulletin board for more information.

Don't Forget

Blood Drive: Please sign up to donate blood on Friday, July 28 at Zion. You can visit redcrossblood.org and search the date or use the code ZIONMENN to select a donation time between 11 am and 4:45 pm. You are also welcome to see Ella Richer on Sunday in the fellowship hall after the service to sign up or to volunteer in other ways on the day of the drive. ~ Thank you, Ella and Julia Richer

MCUSA Convention Delegate Assembly report: Barb Yoder and Sue Short served as delegates last week. Here is a summary of that experience, some of which Sue shared during worship last Sunday.

If you've ever attended Convention, or have served as a delegate, you'll remember that the Delegate Assembly has typically been held at the same time as Convention. This means that delegates can participate in the Convention morning and evening worship times, and can choose one of the late afternoon Convention workshops to attend. However, most of the delegates' time each day is spent in delegate business sessions. This year, Convention and the Delegate Assembly were offered as two separate events which did not overlap. This allowed participants the opportunity to choose to attend both, or to arrive at the end of the week just for the Delegate Assembly.

This year's Delegate Assembly utilized the same theme as Convention - "Be Transformed." The speaker for our delegate worship sessions was Rev. Dr. Sarah Bixler, Assistant Professor of Formation and Practical Theology at Eastern Mennonite Seminary. During our worship sessions, Sarah preached on transformation from the perspective of three stories from 'upper rooms' in the New Testament - Jesus and his disciples at the Last Supper, the resurrected Jesus appearing to the disciples who were hiding in fear behind locked doors, and the disciples gathered and waiting to receive the promised Holy Spirit during the Festival of Pentecost.

There were three resolutions under consideration at this Delegate Assembly:

- **Resolution #1** proposed moving from the current pattern of a national denominational gathering every 2 years (a biennium cycle), to meeting every 3 years (triennium cycle). This resolution was presented as a cost saving measure - meeting less frequently would save money. There were many comments from the floor during open mic time. Some wondered whether the Executive Board had considered other options before proposing to move to an every three year cycle, and were especially in favor looking into renting less expensive venues, and utilizing a much more simplified format. Other comments reflected a desire for youth to continue to have the option of attending twice during high school, instead of only once (if the resolution passed). Several youth and young adult delegates talked about the message that meeting less frequently might communicate to the youth, especially when it was stated that their presence was valued. This resolution fell slightly short of the votes needed to pass. Our gathering will remain every two years.
- **Resolution #2** asked for a change in the wording of MCUSA's bylaws in order to further clarify the relationship of organizations considered "program entities" of the denomination. The proposed wording changes to the bylaws are intended to help "formalize the roles and responsibilities of these partnering entities, and simplify the language." This resolution seemed to be very straightforward to the majority of the delegates. It passed nearly unanimously, with only a few dissenting votes.
- **Resolution #3** asked for a change in status for Everence and Mennonite Health Services (MHS Association) from MCUSA 'program agencies,' to 'program entities' (or ministry partners) of MCUSA. Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) and Mennonite Disaster Service (MDS) are other examples of 'program entities'/ministry partners. Both Everence and MHS have grown over the years into large organizations with more complicated structures. As 'program entities,' they would still remain closely connected to the denomination, and the Executive Board of MCUSA would continue to appoint members to serve on their boards. Like Resolution #2, this one passed nearly unanimously, with only a few dissenting votes.

This was a great experience, and Barb and I both really appreciated the opportunity to serve last week. It's a sign of hope when delegates from many different places, and many different perspectives, gather around the table and have discussions that are kind, caring, respectful, and joyful, and are able to depart as new friends. -Submitted by Sue Short

THE LAST PAGE...

...but never the last word

Part of our work has been, and continues to be, setting Zion up for a successful pastoral search.

The decision to invite a pastor has layers. The search team's work and the congregational decision-making process are part of a corporate layer. That's the aspect we pay most attention to and pray about. It's a very important one.

Inviting a pastor is also about the joy and risk of opening one's life and heart to a new companion on the way.

Back when I worked with adolescents, the supervising psychiatrist often reminded us that a good farewell opens the door for a good hello. Is there a former pastor you need to release in order to welcome a new pastor in the present?

Inviting a pastor is also about the next chapter in one's own life. What personal or spiritual growth do you hope for with a new pastor? Will it require adjustments in time or energy? Where might preparation be helpful in getting ready?

These are layers I think of. Maybe you think of others

Dan